

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29916

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR RUSH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, FR

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF ROLAND MISSILE PROGRAM

REF: SECDEF 3635 DTG 052226Z OCT 76

SUMMARY: I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH CONCERN REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON OF DSARC RECOMMENDATION TO TERMINATE US PARTICIPATION IN ROLAND AIR DEFENSE MISSILE PROGRAM. AT THE RISK OF BELABORING THE OBVIOUS, WE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IF THE US PULLS OUT OF ROLAND, WE WILL HAVE VITIATED ALL OF THE WORK THAT HAS GONE INTO STANDARDIZATION AND "THE TWO-WAY STREET" OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NEW YORK TIMES (OCT 3) AND DOD PRESS BRIEFING (OCT 5) HAVE MADE PUBLIC THE FACT THAT THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS ACQUISITION REVIEW COMMITTEE (DSARC) HAS RECOMMENDED TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS THAT THE US TERMINATE PARTICIPATION IN THE ROLAND AIR DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEM. THE US DECISION IN JANUARY 1975 TO BUY AN "OFF-THE-SHELF" MISSILE DEVELOPED JOINTLY BY THE FRENCH AND GERMANS WAS HAILED AT THE TIME AS TANGIBLE PROOF THAT WE ARE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN STANDARDIZATION, CO-PRODUCTION, AND A "TWO WAY STREET".

2. YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE BITTER COMPETITION LAST YEAR OVER THE F-16 FIGHTER SALE, WHICH INVOLVED MUCH LARGER SUMS OF MONEY. THAT MEMORY IS BEGINNING TO FADE HERE IN FRANCE. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO POINT TO  
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THE ROLAND PROGRAM AS EVIDENCE OF GOOD FAITH ON OUR

PART THAT THE "TWO WAY STREET" IS NOT A EUPHEMISM FOR "BUY AMERICAN".

3. THE DOD SPOKESMAN TOLD THE PRESS (SEE REFTTEL) ON OCTOBER 5 THAT SECRETARY CLEMENTS WILL BE REVIEWING THE ROLAND PROGRAM OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BECAUSE HE HAD DECLINED TO "IMMEDIATELY ACCEPT" THE DSARC RECOMMENDATION TO TERMINATE THE US ROLE. THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE REVIEW IS FOCUSSED ON COST AND SCHEDULING BUT SAID "THE DECISION COULD BE AT THE END OF THIS REVIEW TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM".

4. CONSERVATIVE FIGARO HAS PICKED UP THE STORY WITH AN ARTICLE HEADED "THE AMERICANS AT THE TEST". IT STRIKES ME THAT THIS IS, INDEED, A TEST. AS YOU KNOW, OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOF WILL SURVIVE A NEGATIVE US DECISION ON ROLAND, BUT THERE WILL BE A TEMPORARY OUTBURST HERE. MORE TO THE POINT, IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT RATIONALIZATION, STANDARDIZATION, AND CO-PRODUCTION, THEN THE DECISION ON ROLAND MUST BE MEASURED IN MORE THAN DOLLARS AND CENTS, LEST WE VITIATE THE EFFORT WE HAVE PUT INTO SUPPORTING THESE OBJECTIVES.

RUSH

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